**Meeting Minutes - NJLA Diversity & Outreach Section**

**April 24, 2014**

**Piscataway Public Library/Adobe Connect**

**Attendance**: Joan Bernstein (NJLA Executive liaison), Mi-Sun Lyu (LibraryLinkNJ), Enola Romano (Montclair), Kate Baker (Piscataway), Jen Schureman (GCLS), Mimi Lee (NJSL), Kate Vasilik (Piscataway), Peggy Cadigan (NJSL), Doug Poswencyk (SCLS/Watchung), Allan M. Kleiman (Montville), Andrew Luck (Paterson), Jill D’Amico (East Brunswick). [Waiting on transcript for AC attendees!]

**Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.**

After brief introductions and a hello to our colleagues attending via Adobe Connect, minutes from the 4/1/14 meeting were approved.

**D&O Strategic Plan**The strategic plan is still open for comment.

**D&O Listserve/Emails**

There was discussion about how we communicate as a section, and a suggestion of digest emails instead of individual e-mails. It is possible the NJLA Drupal-run website will be able to alleviate some of these concerns by centralizing information.

**D&O Resource page**

Mi-Sun is waiting for administrator training on the new NJLA section pages, but in the meantime members are encouraged to send information and resources to her for the D&O Resources page that will be hosted on LibraryLinkNJ’s website.

**NJLA Conference update...**

We discussed last-minute preparations for the NJLA conference. Promotion is underway. Contacts for future programs (YS and AS forums) are being made. We will follow up with speakers to see if they will participate in future NJLA/D&O events, meetings and workshops. We will sit down after the conference to plan out the rest of the year’s meetings, and possibly partner with other sections for join meetings and workshops. We were encouraged to reach out to other sections now in preparation.

**D&O Programming sidebar**

We discussed programming outside of the NJLA conference, and will continue to look ahead to sponsoring other speakers and programs. Jen suggested working with the YA section for a fall workshop. LibraryLinkNJ generously offered $1,000 in funding to plan a standalone program, for which proposals will be welcomed. It was discussed that the profession is overdue for a diversity conference of some kind.

**… NJLA conference**

We will have a table for D&O promotion and materials at the NJLA conference. Jen will create a Doodle poll so people can sign up to man the table. Program planners will be reaching out to the speakers to send materials to have on hand for both the preconference and the resource table.

**Diversity Book Awards talkforce**

Nola and Jen spoke about the task force working on creating a Diversity Book Award. The taskforce will determine what the award will cover, what topics will it celebrate, and how guidelines will be set. Non-librarians are welcome on the taskforce.

**New Jersey State Library**

NJSL is hosting grant writing workshops across the state. Their NJSL Leadership Academy presentations will be shown at the conference. Library Legislative day is coming up in early May, members are encouraged to travel to D.C. for ALA’s annual event.

**Topics for D&O Meetings**

We will attempt to poll the D&O membership about topics they would like to see addressed at meetings.

**Good of the Order**

The April Urban Libraries United conference was discussed. Nola, Jill and Andy attended, promoted the section and its programs at NJLA. Connections were made for possible speakers at future events.

**Mission Statement**

A mission statement was shared with the D&O listserve and feedback was encouraged. Identified needs included refining to whom we are speaking to - professionals or the public? - how to encourage working with libraries, training resources, preparing them for the needs of their communities. One constant was providing librarians with resources. A resource page will be central to our mission.

**Next Meeting**

Will be held on July 10th, place TBA. The NJLA Annual Conference will stand-in for the June meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Jill D’Amico, 6/19/14*